

Via Facsimile: (703) 872-9326

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PATENT**

Lundblade describes a latch assembly 28 including a handle 29 and a latch 30. Referring to Figs. 7-10, the handle 29 includes a pivot portion 56 and a gripping portion 57. The pivot portion is sized to be inserted between the side walls 35 and 36 of the bracket 33, and openings 58 and 59 are provided in the ends of the pivot portion for receiving two pivot pins 49. One pin extends through the opening 50 in the side wall 35 and into the opening 58 in the pivot portion, and another pin extends through the opening 52 in the side wall 36 and into the opening 59 in the pivot portion. The pivot portion 56 of the handle 29 includes a projection 62 (Fig. 7) which extends radially with respect to the axis of rotation 63 of the pivot portion.

Referring to Figs. 11-13, the latch 30 includes a pivot portion 71, a latching portion 72, and an L-shaped connecting portion 73 which extends between the pivot portion and the latching portion. The pivot portion 71 is generally cylindrical and is sized to be inserted between the side walls 35 and 36 of the bracket 33. The ends of the pivot portion are provided with openings 74 and 75 which receive pivot pins 49 which extend through the openings 51 and 53, respectively, in the bracket 33.

A groove 76 is provided in the upper surface of the pivot portion 71 of the latch between a pair of projections 77 and 78. The groove has an arcuate or curved surface which is adapted to receive the projection 62 of the handle 29 when the two parts are mounted in the bracket 33. The center of the groove is radially aligned with the pivot axis 79 of the pivot portion. After the lid is closed, the latch can be moved from its unlatched position shown in Fig. 5 to its latched position shown in Fig. 6 by pivoting the handle 29 counterclockwise to move the projection 62 and the groove 76 over center. The handle acts as a lever which pivots the latch 30 clockwise to bring the latching portion 72 into the recess 31 in the base of the cooler. The engagement between the upper surface 82 of the latching portion and the upper surface 86 of the recess 31 will retain the lid in the closed position.

Claim 21 recites a method for assembling a door latch assembly for a dishwasher, the latch assembly for securing a dishwasher door to a dishwasher tub assembly, the method including "providing a handle; providing a handle retainer; connecting the handle to the handle retainer; and coupling a keeper to the handle providing sliding contact between the keeper and

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the handle such that the handle is rotatable in a first direction and the keeper is rotatable in a second direction that is opposite the first direction."

Lundblade neither describes nor suggests a method for assembling a door latch assembly for a dishwasher, the latch assembly for securing a dishwasher door to a dishwasher tub assembly, and the method including providing a handle, providing a handle retainer, connecting the handle to the handle retainer, and coupling a keeper to the handle providing sliding contact between the keeper and the handle such that the handle is rotatable in a first direction and the keeper is rotatable in a second direction that is opposite the first direction. Moreover, Lundblade neither describes nor suggests coupling a keeper to the handle providing sliding contact between the keeper and the handle such that the handle is rotatable in a first direction and the keeper is rotatable in a second direction that is opposite the first direction. Rather, Lundblade describes the handle having a projection 62 receivable within a groove 76 of the latch. According to Lundblade, the handle acts as a lever which pivots the latch. (See Col. 5, lines 26-28) Nowhere does Lundblade describe or suggest coupling a keeper to a handle to provide sliding contact between the keeper and the handle.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 21 is submitted to be patentable over Mercer.

Claims 13-15 depend from Claim 21, and when the recitations of Claims 13-15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Claims 13-15 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Lundblade.

Claims 18 and 19 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 16 has been amended to include the recitations of Claim 18, indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Claim 16 is submitted to be patentable over Lundblade.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 13-16 and 21 be withdrawn.

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The rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Lundblade, U.S. Patent No. 4,502,715 is respectfully traversed.

Claims 18 and 19 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 16 has been amended to include the recitations of Claim 18, indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

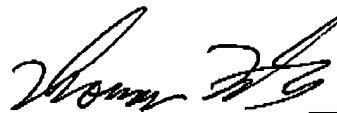
Accordingly, Claim 16 is submitted to be patentable over Lundblade.

Claim 17 depends directly from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claim 17 is considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 17 is likewise patentable over Lundblade.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claim 17 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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For: METHODS AND APPARATUS :
FOR SECURING A :
DISHWASHER DOOR :

SUBMISSION OF MARKED UP CLAIMS

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In furtherance of the response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2003 submitted
herewith, Applicants hereby submit marked up versions of the amendments therein:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 18 without prejudice.

16. (Once Amended) A dishwasher comprising:

a tub assembly;

a door hingedly coupled at first edge to said tub assembly; and

a latch assembly configured to secure said door to said tub assembly, said latch
assembly comprising:

a handle; and

a keeper [in] is slidably coupled with said handle, said handle rotatable in
a first direction, said keeper rotatable in a second direction opposite said first direction, said

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keeper including a biasing member and a head portion extending from said biasing member, said head portion including a catch and a lock release projection, said biasing member configured to bias said catch for engagement with said door.

21. (Once Amended) A method for assembling a door latch assembly for a dishwasher, the latch assembly for securing a dishwasher door to a dishwasher tub assembly, said method comprising:

providing a handle;

providing a handle retainer;

connecting the handle to the handle retainer; and

[slidably] coupling a keeper to the handle providing sliding contact between the keeper and the handle such that the handle is rotatable in a first direction and the keeper is rotatable in a second direction that is opposite the first direction.

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